

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)
East Central and South-East Europe Division (ECSEED)

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**East Central and South-East Europe Division overview
(Last update: 21 November 2008)**

Submitted by ECSEE Division Chairman*

* Prepared by ECSEED Chairman Željko Hećimović, and edited by ECSEED experts.

East Central and South-East Europe Division overview

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East Central and South-East Europe Division (ECSEED) of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) was established at the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in Geneva 1967 together with other 14 Divisions. They were formally recognized (Recommendation II/4) at the Second Conference in London 1972 [1].

The East Central and South-East Europe Division is the 13th Division of altogether 23 divisions that guide the work of UNGEGN. The countries are grouped in UNGEGN Divisions according to linguistic/geographical principles. The East Central and South-East Europe Division countries belong to Southern Europe, Eastern Europe and Western Asia UN geographical regions [2] (s. Fig. 1).



Fig. 1: UN geographical regions

Sixteen countries are active in the East Central and South-East Europe Division: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Greece,

Hungary, Montenegro, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine (s. Fig. 2).



Fig. 2: East Central and South-East Europe Division of UNGEGN.

Romania and Moldova are surrounded by the Division countries. They are members of UNGEGN Divisions according to linguistic principles. Moldova is a member of Romano-Hellenic Division and Romania is a

member of French-speaking Division and Romano-Hellenic Division. Some of the Division countries are members of several UNGEGN Divisions (s. Table 1).

Table 1: The Division countries active in several UNGEGN Divisions

Country	Member of UNGEGN Divisions
Bulgaria	1. East Central and South-East Europe Division
	2. Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division
Cyprus	1. East Central and South-East Europe Division
	2. Asia South-West Division (other than Arabic)
	3. East Mediterranean Division (other than Arabic)
	4. Romano-Hellenic Division
Greece	1. East Central and South-East Europe Division
	2. Romano-Hellenic Division
Serbia	1. East Central and South-East Europe Division
	2. Asia South-West Division (other than Arabic)
Turkey	1. East Central and South-East Europe Division
	2. Asia South-West Division (other than Arabic)
	3. Romano-Hellenic Division
Ukraine	1. East Central and South-East Europe Division
	2. Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division

In the last period some of the Division countries went through dynamic political changes that also influenced the structure of the Division.

Ukraine became a UN member after splitting of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. It was an original Member of the United Nations from 24 October 1945. At the end of 1991 the membership of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the United Nations has been continued by the Russian Federation with the support of the 9 member countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) and 2 participating countries (Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Czechoslovakia was an original Member of the United Nations since 24 October 1945. It split into the **Czech Republic** and the **Slovak Republic** in early 1993 and both new countries became member states of the UN on 19 January of that year.

The Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was an original Member of the United Nations since 1945. In the early 1990 it was split in five countries: **Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Slovenia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** and the **Federal Republic of Yugoslavia**.

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Slovenia were admitted as members of the United Nations on 22 May 1992.

In 1993, the General Assembly decided to admit as a member of the United Nations the State being provisionally referred to for all purposes within the United Nations as **the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** pending settlement of the difference that had arisen over its name.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was admitted as a member of the United Nations by General Assembly on the 1 November 2000.

On 4 February 2003, following the adoption and promulgation of the Constitutional Charter of Serbia and Montenegro by the Assembly of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the official name of Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was changed to **Serbia and Montenegro**.

In 2006 **Montenegro** declared itself independent. The membership to UN of "Serbia and Montenegro" has been continued by the **Republic of Serbia**. **Montenegro** was accepted as a United Nations Member State by General Assembly on 28 June 2006.

The overview of the main Division countries data is given in Table 2.

Table 2: The main Division countries data [4], [5], [6], [11]

	Country National Official Name Formal name	Country National Official Name Short name	Country UN English Name Formal name	Country UN English Name Short name	UN Member since	ISO alpha-2/3 Country code
ALBANIA	Republika e Shqipërisë	Shqipëri Shqipëria	Republic of Albania (the)	Albania	14 December 1955	AL / ALB
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	bs: Bosna i Hercegovina hr: Bosna i Hercegovina sr: Босна и Херцеговина <i>Bosna i Hercegovina</i>	bs: Bosna i Hercegovina hr: Bosna i Hercegovina sr: Босна и Херцеговина <i>Bosna i Hercegovina</i>	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina	22 May 1992	BA / BIH
BULGARIA	Република България <i>Republika Bălgarija</i>	България <i>Bălgarija</i>	Republic of Bulgaria (the)	Bulgaria	14 December 1955	BG / BGR
CROATIA	Republika Hrvatska	Hrvatska	Republic of Croatia (the)	Croatia	22 May 1992	HR / HRV
CYPRUS	Κυπριακή Δημοκρατία el: Κυπριακή Δημοκρατία tr: Kıbrıs Cumhuriyeti	Κύπρος el: Κύπρος tr: Kıbrıs	Republic of Cyprus (the)	Cyprus	20 September 1960	CY / CYP
CZECH REPUBLIC	Česká republika	Česko	Czech Republic (the)	Czech Republic (the)	19 January 1993	CZ / CZE
GREECE	Ελληνική Δημοκρατία el: <i>Elliniki Dimokratia</i>	Ελλάς el: <i>Ellás</i>	Hellenic Republic (the)	Greece	25 October 1945	GR / GRC
HUNGARY	Magyar Köztársaság (a)	Magyarország	Republic of Hungary (the)	Hungary	14 December 1955	HU / HUN

MONTENEGRO	Црна Гора Crna Gora	Црна Гора Crna Gora	Montenegro	Montenegro	28 June 2006	ME / MNE
POLAND	Rzeczpospolita Polska	Polska	Republic of Poland (the)	Poland	24 October 1945	PL / POL
SERBIA	Република Србија <i>Republika Srbija</i>	Србија <i>Srbija</i>	Republic of Serbia (the)	Serbia	1 November 2000	RS / SRB
SLOVAKIA	Slovenská republika	Slovensko	Slovak Republic (the)	Slovakia	19 January 1993	SK / SVK
SLOVENIA	Republika Slovenija	Slovenija	Republic of Slovenia (the)	Slovenia	22 May 1992	SI / SVN
THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA	Поранешна Југословенска Република Македонија <i>Poranešna Jugoslovenska Republika Makedonija</i>		The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	8 April 1993	MK / MKD
TURKEY	Türkiye Cumhuriyeti	Türkiye	Republic of Turkey (the)	Turkey	24 October 1945	TR / TUR
UKRAINE	Україна <i>Ukraina</i>	Україна <i>Ukraina</i>	Ukraine	Ukraine	24 October 1945	UA / UKR

In Table 3 there are the main Division countries language, writing systems and Romanization principles given.

Table 3: Division countries languages and writing systems [11]

Country	Language (UN English name)	Writing system(s) (BR - Basic Roman)	Romanization system(s)	Language code (ISO 639 / ISO DIS 639-3)
ALBANIA	Albanian	BR + Albanian extensions	n/a	sq / sqi
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	bs: Bosnian hr: Croatian sr: Serbian	bs: BR + Bosnian extensions hr: BR + Croatian extensions sr: Cyrillic (0400-04FF)	bs: n/a hr: n/a sr: UN 1977 (III/11) (update VIII/14)	bs / bos hr / hrv sr / srp
BULGARIA	Bulgarian	Cyrillic (0400-04FF)	a) UN 1977 (III/10) b) BGN/PCGN 1952	bg / bul
CROATIA	Croatian	BR + Croatian extensions	n/a	hr / hrv
CYPRUS	el: Greek tr: Turkish	el: Greek (0370-03FF, 0F00-1F7F) tr: BR + Turkish extensions	el: UN 1987 (V/19) tr: n/a	el / ell tr / tur
CZECH REPUBLIC	Czech	BR + Czech extensions	n/a	cs / ces
GREECE	Greek	Greek (0370-03FF, 1F00-1FFF)	UN 1987 (V/19)	el / ell

HUNGARY	Hungarian	BR + Hungarian extensions	n/a	hu / hun
MONTENEGRO	Montenegrin Also official: sr: Serbian bs: Bosnian sq: Albanian hr: Croatian	(Cyrillic script) (Latin script)		
POLAND	Polish	BR + Polish extensions	n/a	pl / pol
SERBIA	sr: Serbian sq: Albanian hu: Hungarian	sr: Cyrillic (0400-04FF) sq: BR + Albanian extensions hu: BR + Hungarian extensions	sr: UN 1977 (III/11) (update VIII/14) sq: n/a hu: n/a	sr / srp sq / sqi hu / hun
SLOVAKIA	Slovak	BR + Slovak extensions	n/a	sk / slk
SLOVENIA	sl: Slovene hu: Hungarian it: Italian	sl: BR + Slovene extensions hu: BR + Hungarian extensions it: BR + Italian extensions	sl: n/a hu: n/a it: n/a	sl / slv hu / hun it / ita
THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA	Macedonian	Cyrillic (0400-04FF)	UN 1977 (III/11)	mk / mkd
TURKEY	Turkish	BR + Turkish extensions	n/a	tr / tur
UKRAINE	Ukrainian	Cyrillic (0400-04FF)	a) National 1996 b) BGN/PCGN 1965	uk / ukr

In Table 4 there is an overview of National authority for geographical names and Toponymic Guidelines of Division

countries given. It is reflecting the level of activates of each country. These data should be permanently updated.

Table 4: National authority for geographical names and Toponymic Guidelines of Division countries [7], [8], [10], [12], [13]

Country	National authority for geographical names	Year of establishment of national authority	Contact, if no National Authority	Toponymic Guidelines (edition year)	Internet Site
ALBANIA			Military Geographical Institute Geographic Studies Center		
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA			Federalna uprava za geodetske i imovinsko - pravne poslove		http://www.fgu.com.ba/
BULGARIA	Council of Standardization of the Geographical Names (Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Agency)	1951			http://www.cadastre.bg
CROATIA	(in progress)		Croatian Geodetic Institute	2007 (not official)	http://www.cgi.hr
CYPRUS	Cyprus Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names	1977		2000 (draft version)	

CZECH REPUBLIC	Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre	2001		2007 2002 1998 1996 1994 1987 - Czecho-slovakia	http://www.cuzk.cz
GREECE			Hellenic Navy Hydrographic Service, Hellenic Military Geographic Service	2000 1998 1981	
HUNGARY	Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names	1989 1963		2002 1994 1981	http://www.ksh.hu http://www.fomi.hu
MONTENEGRO			Uprava za nekretnine Vlade Crne Gore		http://www.nekretnine.cg.yu
POLAND	1) Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland * 2) Commission on Names of Localities and Physiographical Objects ** *among others responsible for contacts with UNGEGN **only names' standardization within Poland	1) 1951 1973 2) 1934		2002 2000 1996	1) http://www.gugik.gov.pl/komisja/english/kontakt.php

SERBIA	(in progress)		1) Republic Geodetic Authority 2) Military Geographical Institute		1) http://www.rgz.gov.rs/default.asp 2) http://www.vgi.mod.gov.rs/english/index_eng.html
SLOVAKIA	Office of Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre of the Slovak Republic	1971		2000 1996 1987 - Czechoslovakia	http://www.geodesy.gov.sk/sgn/typonym/Eng/typoframe.htm
SLOVENIA	Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia	1986		1995	http://www.gu.gov.si/si/delovnapodrocja_gu/projekti_gu/registri/kszi/komisija_eng/
THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA	Macedonian governmental commission for the standardization of the geographical names	2000			
TURKEY	The Board of Experts for Geographical Names of Turkey (BEGeoN_T)	2004		1982	
UKRAINE	State Service of Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre	2006 2005			http://www.geomatica.kiev.ua/

The Division countries are strongly influenced by EuroGeographics project EuroGeoNames (EGN). As EU INSPIRE initiative it will define new standards for the usage of geographical names as a part of spatial data infrastructure. The influence of globalization process on the Division countries can be articulated by the development of new Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). Google Earth is one of the ICT tools that open new possibilities in global distribution, sharing and presentation of geographical names. It is challenging standardization of geographical names.

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